In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (currently amended) A method of communicating information between a plurality of client computers comprising the steps of:

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a) providing data on a data source and communicating the data from the data source to one or more of a plurality of client computers in response to a request for data by said one or more client computers;

b) updating the data on the data source by sending data from one of the plurality of client computers to said data source; and

c) communicating a fact that the data available on the data source has been updated by communicating a client to client message from the one client computer that updated the data to other client computers directly via a network server thereby prompting said other client computers to access the updated data from the data source.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the data source and the plurality of client computers communicate information by means of a hypertext transfer protocol wherein a client computer periodically polls the data source and further wherein said client computers poll the data source in response to a client to client message concerning an updating of data on the data source from another client.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of providing a communications interrupt server which communicates client to client messages between multiple client computers.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the client to client message is formatted in accordance with an internet relay chat protocol.

5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the data source maintains a database of information and wherein different portions of the database are assigned a unique internet relay chat channel.

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6. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the data source maintains a goal based message hierarchy having message nodes and wherein updates to one or more nodes in a group of such nodes are assigned to an internet relay chat channel.

7. (original) The method of claim 4 additionally comprising the step of providing a communications interrupt server which communicates messages between multiple client computers by means of said internet relay chat protocol.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the data source comprises a server computer.

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A computer readable medium containing computer instructions for performing the steps of:

a) providing data on a data source and communicating the data from the data source to one client computer of a plurality of client computers in response to a request for data by said one client computer; and

b) updating the data on the data source and communicating a fact that the data available on the data source has been updated by communicating an update message from said one client computer to said plurality of client computers <u>directly via a network server</u> thereby prompting said plurality of client computers to access the updated data from the data source.

13. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 12 wherein the data source and the plurality of client computers communicate information by means of a hypertext transfer protocol wherein a client computer periodically polls the data source and further wherein said client computers poll the data source in response to an update message concerning an updating of data on the data source.

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14. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 12 additionally comprising the step of providing a communications interrupt which communicates update messages between multiple client computers.

15. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 12 wherein the update message is formatted in accordance with an internet relay chat protocol.

16. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 15 additionally comprising the step of providing a communications interrupt which communicates messages between multiple client computers by means of said internet relay chat protocol.

17. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 12 wherein the data source comprises a server computer.

18. (currently amended) A method of communicating information between a plurality of client computers comprising the steps of:

a) providing data on a server computer and communicating the data from the server computer to a single client computer of a plurality of client computers in response to a request for data by said single client computer; and

b) updating the data on the server computer and then communicating a fact that the data available on the server has been updated by communicating an update message from said single client computer to said plurality of client computers directly via a network server to thereby prompt said plurality of client computers to access the updated data from the server computer.

19. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein the update message is formatted in accordance with an internet relay chat protocol.

20. (original) The method of claim 19 wherein certain specified clients are assigned internet relay chat protocol channels to allow the update message to be targeted at certain clients.

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21. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein the server computer stores a message hierarchy in a goal directed messaging system for tabulating messages from multiple clients and wherein the update message indicates the message hierarchy has been updated.

22. (original) The method of claim 21 wherein the message hierarchy is divided into nodes which form groups of one or more nodes and wherein the update message is in the form of an internet relay chat protocol and wherein node groups are assigned different internet relay chat channels.

23. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein the server computer stores a database for storing information made available from multiple clients and wherein the update message indicates the database has been updated.

24. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the database is divided into data portions and said data portions are assigned channels in an internet relay chat protocol that implements the update message.